



CERCLA and the Hazard Ranking System

- The CERCLA (Superfund) program was created to identify, and, if necessary, remediate releases of hazardous substances that pose a significant threat to human health and the environment.
- Placement of a site on the National Priorities List makes the site eligible for federal funding for possible site remediation.
- Within the Superfund program, the HRS is the main mechanism for identifying releases at sites that may warrant further investigation and possible remediation.
- The role of the Hazard Ranking System is as an initial screening tool. It is not a site specific risk assessment.



Hazard Ranking System

- A mathematical model that evaluates 4 different pathways: groundwater, surface water, soil exposure, air
- Used as a screening tool
 - » At the Preliminary Assessment stage (and beyond), a HRS score is generated before field activities begin, to help prioritize resources used for sampling events
 - » Sites with a score of 28.50 or greater qualify for further assessment under CERCLA
 - » Max score 100



